

LARRY CROUSE



REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROUSE

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Commerce and Labor;
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1-800-635-9993



• Representative Larry Crouse •

Dear friends and neighbors,

The 60-day legislative session ended March 13, and it feels great to be back in Spokane with family and friends, not to mention seeing the sun!

This session Olympia took a few important steps toward putting families before felons by cracking down on gang violence and sex offenders. We passed meaningful legislation that will help track, monitor and convict sex offenders, and we adopted comprehensive anti-gang legislation.

However, the list of successes does not go much further than that.

The majority party passed a supplemental budget that increases state spending \$306 million, and their leadership even said tax increases were possible to help balance the books. Olympia's uncontrollable appetite for spending your money must stop.

I hope you find the information included in this newsletter valuable. If you have questions, concerns or comments on any of the issues discussed, or topics not listed here, I encourage you to contact me.

I am very proud to represent the 4th District and to be your voice in Olympia.

Sincerely,

Larry Crouse
State Representative
4th District

2008 SESSION REVIEW

To constituents of the 4th Legislative District

REP. LARRY CROUSE • 4TH DISTRICT

THE STATE MUST SET PRIORITIES AND BUDGET ACCORDINGLY

With a national economic slowdown and the effects of the subprime mortgage crises still hitting Wall Street, Washington needs to be on a close watch to ensure our economy stays strong.

With this in mind, I am perplexed as to why the majority party passed a \$306 million spending increase in a supplemental budget year. With that increase, the budget is now more than \$33.7 billion. That is a 33 percent increase – \$8.4 billion – since 2004.

Earlier this year, the non-partisan Senate Ways and Means staff released its budget projection for the next four years. In the 2009-11 budget, the state may have a deficit of \$2.4 billion, and in 2011-13 the expected shortfall is \$5 billion. It is also important to know that the majority party has not ruled out tax increases to cover the deficit.

It is clear to me that Olympia does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. The Legislature needs to be more accountable for how it spends your money.



DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP LAW CONTINUES TO EXPAND

As a supporter of the traditional definition of marriage, I was disappointed that the Legislature passed another major domestic partnership bill this year.

House Bill 3104 represents an ongoing, dramatic change in the types of legal relationships we recognize in our state regarding the historic status of marriage as a unique relationship between a man and a woman. It amends 168 statutes to include domestic partnership.

Prior to this legislation, these sections of law referred only to spouses.

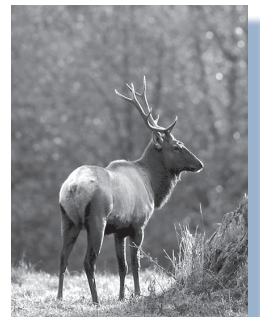
The bill gives domestic partners rights and responsibilities on guardianship, taxes, estate planning and variety of other areas that were previously only allowed to married couples. If any more bills of this magnitude pass the Legislature, domestic partnerships would have all the same rights as married couples.

I believe the bill undermines the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which I co-sponsored in the late '90s. The DOMA states Washington has a compelling state interest in reaffirming its historical commitment to the institution of marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR COULD BE IN YOUR BACK YARD

Legislation to authorize the creation of the Yukon to Yellowstone wildlife corridor (Y2Y) that would engulf 2,000 miles of land, including parts of the 4th District, nearly passed the Legislature this year.

The bill would have required American fish and wildlife officials to work with their Canadian counterparts to protect a massive wildlife corridor known as the **Yukon to Yellowstone Eco-Region**. That corridor would be protected over your property



2008 SESSION REVIEW

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONT'D.

rights. It would allow out-of-state and international environmental groups to tell local residents what they could and could not do on their land.

I am completely opposed to the legislation, and I am thankful it died this year. The Seattle Democrat who sponsored the bill said he will reintroduce it again next year and work for its passage. I will continue to advocate for your rights as property owners.

SENATE BILL 6900 HAD SOME ENGINE TROUBLE

It has been a long time since I received so many e-mails and phone calls over one bill, but **Senate Bill 6900** has caused a lot of stir around the district.

The bill says the larger the car you drive and the bigger the engine is, the more your car tab fee would cost. A typical family from the 4th District which owns a mini-van and a small SUV, would be looking at an additional annual tab fee of \$450!

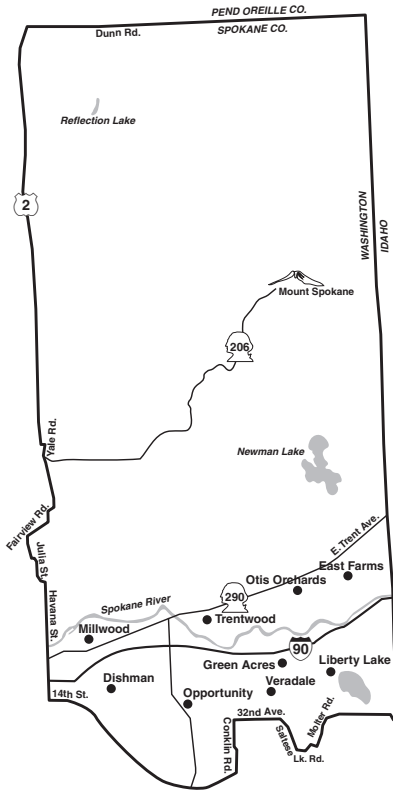
For people who own trucks, the fee is even more expensive. The typical truck would cost you an additional \$325 per year. For those families in the district that have a few cars, the annual tab fee could easily exceed \$1,000.



The good news is this horrible bill stalled this session, but proponents have said they would try to pass it next year as a means to combat climate change. I believe that to combat climate change we need to be stimulating the auto industry to build cleaner vehicles – and this is already happening. Did you know that many full-sized trucks and SUVs are now available in hybrids?

Rep. Larry Crouse is the ranking Republican on the Technology, Energy and Communications Committee. He believes bills like Senate Bill 6900, which would increase car tab fees dramatically based on the size of your vehicle's engine, are bad for residents in the 4th District.

REP. LARRY CROUSE • 4TH DISTRICT



ISSUES, IDEAS,
CONCERNS?

4TH
LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICT

I am your voice in Olympia and your ideas and input are essential. Please keep the calls and e-mails coming.

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